

REMARKS

The Office action of July 26, 2007, has been carefully considered.

The specification and Claim 1 have been amended to correct the informalities cited in the Office action.

Claims 1-13 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite on a number of grounds.

The claims have now been extensively amended in order to utilize the language suggested in the Office action, and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 1-4 and 7-10 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Bergamasco et al, while Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Bergamasco et al in view of Kim et al and Claims 6 and 13 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Bergamasco et al in view of Rosen et al. Claims 11 and 12 have been found to be allowable over the art.

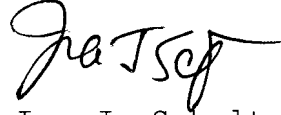
Claim 11 as filed depended from Claim 2, and recited that at least one joint of the exoskeleton structure has open geometry. Claim 1 has now been amended to incorporate this recitation.

It is clear from the Office action that the Bergamasco et al reference does not disclose at least one joint of the exoskeleton having such open geometry. Due to the open geometry of a rotational joint, the interface apparatus can be easily engaged by the user with lateral movement, without the necessity of introducing the arm into a closed bearing axially from above, as in the devices of the prior art. The claimed embodiment also allows the user to withdraw the arm quickly from the device in case of danger, increasing the safety of the apparatus.

Based on this amendment to Claim 1, Applicants submit that all claims now clearly distinguish over the art of record, and withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks,
Applicants submit that the present application is now in
condition for allowance. An early allowance of the
application with amended claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Ira J. Schultz
Registration No. 28666
Attorney for Applicants
(703)837-9600, ext. 23

LAW OFFICES
DENNISON, SCHULTZ & MACDONALD
SUITE 105
1727 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314-2700
703 837-9600